



Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology
Mills/Jarrett Complex
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211

27 January 04

Clinician Public Health Advisory

Update 1 – CDC Influenza H5N1 Enhanced Surveillance Recommendation

Overview of current situation

As reported from the World Health Organization (WHO) on 27 Jan 04, Viet Nam and Thailand have reported laboratory confirmed cases of H5N1 infection in humans. Viet Nam has reported 7 cases, 6 of them fatal. Thailand has reported 3 cases, 2 of them fatal. The cases and deaths in humans coincide with outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in poultry populations in these two countries and several others in Asia.

Outbreaks of avian influenza A (H5N1) have been reported among poultry in Vietnam, South Korea, Thailand, Japan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, and China. H5N1 has been confirmed in smuggled birds in Taiwan, but not in wild flocks or poultry. Additionally, there have been reports of poultry deaths in Laos.

The WHO has reported that the H5N1 strain implicated in the outbreak has been sequenced. All genes are of avian origin, indicating that the virus has **not** acquired human genes. The acquisition of human genes increases the likelihood that a virus of avian origin can be readily transmitted from one human to another.

Enhanced U.S. Influenza Surveillance

National

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends enhanced surveillance efforts by state and local health departments, hospitals, and clinicians to identify patients who have been hospitalized with unexplained pneumonia, ARDS, or severe respiratory illness **AND** who have traveled to countries in Asia with documented H5N1 outbreak.
- All such patients should be tested for influenza virus infection; these tests should include viral culture of nasopharyngeal and throat swabs. All influenza A viruses should be subtyped, and those that cannot be identified as H3 or H1 viruses should be sent immediately to CDC for testing for influenza A (H5N1).

- CDC will make additional recommendations on enhanced surveillance if influenza A (H5N1) activity continues to evolve.

South Carolina

- The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology (DADE) request that all healthcare providers report to their local or state public health department all patients who meet the above clinical presentation **AND** travel history.
- When epidemiological indicators (i.e. symptoms **AND** travel history) are consistent, DHEC recommends collecting clinical specimens for viral culture. Despite the availability of rapid diagnostic tests, only culture isolates can provide specific information regarding circulating influenza subtypes and strains. This information is critical to compare current circulating influenza strains with vaccine strains, to guide decisions regarding influenza treatment and chemoprophylaxis, and establish the existence of new strains in the community.
- Testing of clinical samples can be done by the DHEC Bureau of Laboratories (BoL) when epidemiologically indicated (i.e. symptoms **AND** travel history). The BoL can also assist healthcare facility laboratories in the specimen requirements and transportation to the CDC for reference testing.
- There is considerable potential for the clinical presentation and travel history of persons with either Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) or influenza A (H5N1) infection to overlap. Due to the ongoing surveillance for SARS the importance of obtaining travel history is paramount, not only to assist with a possible H5N1 diagnosis, but also when evaluating an unexplained pneumonia as a possible SARS case.

Travel Restrictions and Advisories

At this time CDC and WHO have not issued any travel alerts or advisories for the region in response to the H5N1 outbreak. U.S. residents who are traveling outside the United States should consult their physician for advice about which vaccines they should obtain. In Vietnam and in other tropical regions, influenza can occur at any time during the year.

Websites for Additional Information

For more information, visit the following websites:

- World Health Organization, Disease Outbreak News:
<http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Influenza A (H5N1) Outbreak:
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/h5n1outbreak.htm>
- SC Dept of Health and Environmental Control, Health Alert network:
<http://www.scdhec.gov/> (click on the link for the "SC Health Alert Network")

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of possible cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at: <http://www.scdhec.net/hs/diseasecont/disease.htm>.

The following is a complete listing of both local and state numbers for use in reporting **ANY** disease or condition.

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512)

District Public Health Offices

Call reports to the District Epidemiology/Disease Reports office in each district.

Appalachia I (Anderson, Oconee)

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 231-1966
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

Appalachia II (Greenville, Pickens)

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: (864) 460-5355 or
1-800-993-1186

Appalachia III (Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227 ext. 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

Catawba (Chester, Lancaster, York)

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29721
Phone: (803) 283-3175
Fax: (803) 283-0572
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886 or
1-888-739-0748

Edisto Savannah (Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell)

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 642-1619
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Edisto Savannah (Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)

PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 536-9118
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Low Country (Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)

1407 King Street
Beaufort, SC 29902
Phone: (843) 525-7603
Fax: (843) 525-7621
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-712-6586

Palmetto (Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: (803) 304-4252

Pee Dee (Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion)

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Trident (Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 746-3832
Fax: (843) 746-3851
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Upper Savannah (Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda)

PO Box 3227
1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Waccamaw (Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)

2830 Oak Street
Conway, SC 29526-4560
Phone: (843) 365-3126
Fax: (843) 365-3153
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Wateree (Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 773-6366
Nights / Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

Bureau of Disease Control

Acute Disease Epidemiology Division
1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902